

U.S. PARALYMPICS

INTEGRATED ADAPTIVE SPORTS PROGRAM

Annual Report to Congress

October 21, 2015



**Office of National Veterans
Sports Programs & Special Events**

VA



U.S. Department
of Veterans Affairs

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VA



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Our Mission:

The Office of National Veterans Sports Programs and Special Events' (NVSP&SE) provides rehabilitative opportunities for eligible Veterans to improve independence, wellbeing and quality of life through adaptive sport, recreation and art therapy programs.

NVSP&SE does this by managing six national events and awarding grants to provide adaptive sports opportunities for disabled Veterans and disabled members of the Armed Forces.

Vision:

Since its inception, NVSP&SE has been dedicated to providing disabled Veterans with constructive and positive relationship-building programs that facilitate their entry into VA's system of rehabilitative care. The experience of the disabled Veterans and members of the Armed Forces is founded on and guided by staff that faithfully embraces VA's I-CARE core values of Integrity, Commitment, Advocacy, Respect and Excellence.

**MISSION
RE
DEFINED**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



The Office of NVSP&SE provides opportunities for disabled Veterans and disabled members of the Armed Forces to participate in rehabilitative sport and art therapy programs. Veterans may suffer from post-traumatic stress disorder or traumatic brain injuries; others have lost limb(s) or mobility, or have become blind or visually impaired; while some deal with a combination of injuries or conditions.

As the therapeutic and competitive sport needs of disabled Veterans and wounded service members becomes more defined, there is an equally increasing need to promote and highlight the benefits of participating or competing in adaptive sports and the importance of providing those opportunities. VA supports the wellness of Veterans and service members with disabilities and promotes their participation in adaptive sports as a means toward living healthier, happier and more productive lives.

Veterans of all ages can participate in

NVSP&SE events – from those recently serving to those who served in World War II, Korea and Vietnam. The place to start is www.va.gov/adaptivesports/. The Web site has information on grants, allowances, National rehabilitation special events, videos, and a Sport Club finder to help Veterans locate activities within their communities.

2013 marked a major change in VA's grant program. Under the program's original legislative authority, Public Law 110-389, VA was authorized to award grants only to the United States Olympic Committee's (USOC) U.S. Paralympics Division for an integrated adaptive sports program. In December 2013, Public Law 113-59 modified this legislation by changing the eligibility criteria such that organizations other than the USOC could apply directly to VA for grant funding. Thus, this annual report details the final year of the U.S. Paralympics Integrated Adaptive Sport Program and transition to the VA Adaptive Sport Grant program.



FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT WWW.VA.GOV/ADAPTIVESPORTS



Paralympic Grant Program

During the reporting period, VA awarded \$8 million in grant funding to the U.S. Olympic Committee (USOC) to manage U.S. Paralympics programs and to award subgrants to Paralympic Sport Clubs, colleges and universities, hospitals, Veteran and military organizations, and other qualifying recipients nationwide. This served to enhance and expand the local community-based Paralympic and adaptive sports programs.

Though implementation of grant funded programming was impacted by legislative changes, the U.S. Paralympics administered \$6,983,777.71 in grant funds and provided adaptive sports opportunities for 4,415 disabled Veterans and disabled members of the Armed Forces.

Paralympic Assistance Allowance Program

The program provides a monthly assistance allowance to disabled Veterans training in their respective Paralympic sports as authorized by the Veterans' Benefits Improvement Act of 2008 and defined in 38 CFR Part 76. Under this program, VA pays monthly allowances to Veterans with either a service-related or non-service-related disability if they are selected and are actively training or competing in a Paralympic sport for a slot on the United States Paralympics team. Throughout the reporting year, VA awarded a total of

\$1,167,820.21 in allowance payments to 163 disabled Veterans competing across 23 different Paralympic sports.

National Rehabilitation Special Events

These events promote physical, social, and emotional wellbeing for all Veteran participants by encouraging independence, healthier lifestyles, and maximum performance. Through these programs, the office hosted six national rehabilitative sport and art therapy opportunities to 4,993 Veterans served by VA medical facilities nationwide.

Collaboration & Program Development

These initiatives capitalize on the synergies established through the three core programs and build upon VA and Department of Defense activities to produce complementary therapeutic sport opportunities in line with 38 U.S.C. § 523.

Transition to Public Law 113-59

The reporting period marked a transition from the USOC administered program to the VA Adaptive Sport Grant program. This transition includes changes in the functional relationships and operational environment related to VA, the USOC, and other adaptive sport entities in the United States.

PARALYMPIC GRANT PROGRAM



1.1 Program Overview

Participating in national, regional, and community-based Paralympic and adaptive sport and rehabilitative programs are essential factors in improving overall health for disabled Veterans and disabled members of the Armed Forces. These programs are critical to improve the health-life plan of Veterans as well as to treat physical, mental and visual impairments. Also, these athletic opportunities assist in reintegrating Veterans back into their communities after the completion of service.

On July 23, 2013, the USOC submitted an application for \$8,000,000 in grant

funding including sub-awards to 70 community, regional and national partners. VA approved the grant application on Sept. 27, 2013, for a total award of \$8,000,000 covering the period September 1, 2013, through September 30, 2014. Additionally, the U.S. Paralympics requested approval to carry over \$506,403 of FY12 grant funds returned by a subgrant recipient. VA approved this request bringing the total amount of funding authorized to \$8,506,403. The USOC also requested, and VA approved, an extension to the FY13 grant period of performance to December 31, 2014.

Due to expiring legislative authority and the uncertainty of reauthorization, the

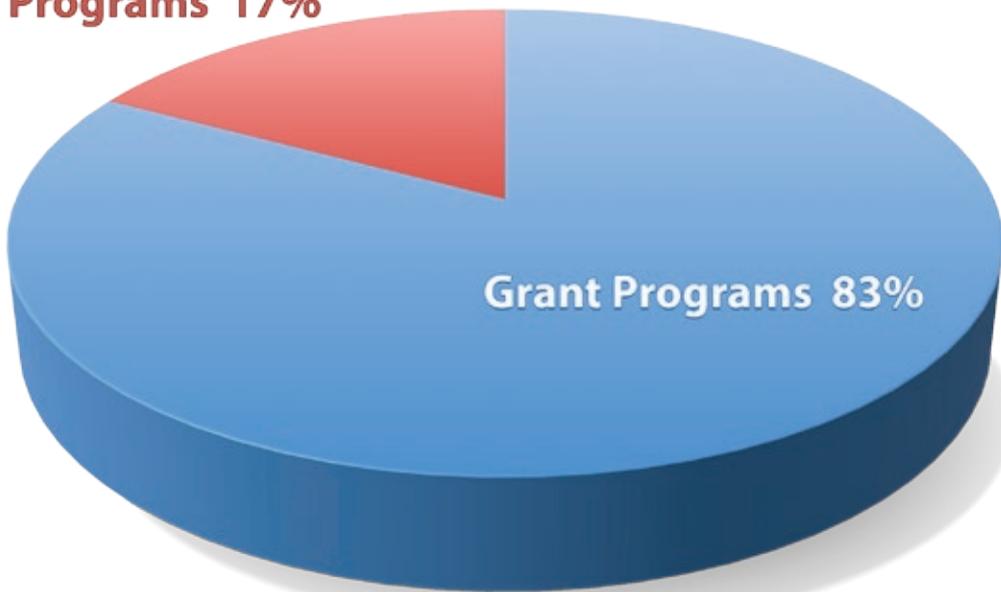
U.S. Paralympics did not administer the full grant award. The U.S. Paralympics reported use of \$6,983,777.71 in grant funding, leaving a balance of \$1,522,625.29 in unused funds. The following details on the Grant Program account for the \$6,983,777.71 in grant funds.

Similar to prior applications, the grant award was applied to two funding areas: (1) Grant Programs and (2) USOC Paralympic Programs. As shown in Table 1, approximately \$5.8 million was dedicated to grant programs, which accounts for 83 percent of the grant. Also, approximately \$1.2 million was allocated for USOC operated programs,

Figure 1: Grant Award by Funding Area

Funding Area	Total Dollars
Grant Programs	\$5,785,109.71
USOC Paralympic Programs	\$1,198,668.00
TOTAL	\$6,983,777.71

USOC Paralympic Programs 17%



Grant Programs 83%

1.2 Grant Program

The grant program provides funding assistance to national, regional, and community-based organizations that provide Paralympic and adaptive sport opportunities to disabled Veterans and disabled members of the Armed Forces. Organizations applied for grants in the following program areas that provide a multi-level approach for ensuring athletic opportunities are available across a variety of sports and competitive levels:

- (1) Community, Regional and National Partnerships**
- (2) Sport Development**
- (3) Valor Games Series**
- (4) Program Development**
- (5) Regional Competitions / Conference**

Appendix A provides a list of the organizations that received Paralympic subgrants from USOC with FY 2013 funding. For details on the FY 2013 grant award funding for this program, see *Figure 2: Grant Subaward By Funding Area*.

COMMUNITY, REGIONAL AND NATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS

The Community, Regional and National partners include non-profit organizations, parks and recreation departments, veterans service organizations, colleges and universities and other organizations that demonstrate the fundamentals

necessary for high-quality, sustainable programs serving disabled Veterans and disabled members of the Armed Forces. These partners offer sport camps, clinics, competitions and ongoing programming at select locations across the country. During this grant period, the U.S. Paralympics awarded up to 34 subgrants ranging from \$14,750 to \$500,000 to partner organizations.

SPORT DEVELOPMENT

Under these partnerships, USOC affiliated National Governing Bodies (NGBs) and High Performance Management Organizations (HPMOs) provide motivation, sport-specific instruction, skill development and camaraderie for disabled Veterans and disabled members of the Armed Forces. These partnerships foster the development of an infrastructure necessary to prepare Veteran athletes for the highest levels of competition. The U.S. Paralympics awarded up to 19 subgrants to NGBs and HPMOs ranging in amounts from \$15,000 to \$500,000 during the grant performance period.

VALOR GAMES SERIES

The Valor Games Series provides multi-day and multi-sport events in targeted areas and provides opportunities for Veteran athletes to compete and advance in their sport. The Valor Games are hosted by community partners and support the identification and eligibility for Veteran participation in the monthly assistance allowance program, emerging athlete camps, and select competitions. These events engage Veterans and connect them to local resources in their

communities to advance their training objectives.

PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

The program development partnerships are designed to facilitate the development of synergies between community-based partners and VA entities in areas where relationships and programming did not previously exist. These grants are intended to create, expand and/or continue Paralympic sport or physical activity projects for disabled Veterans and disabled members of the Armed Forces in collaboration with a partner community-based organization. Subgrants are intended to accomplish any or all of the following:

- 1) development of a collaborative relationship between a VA entity and a community-based organization;
- 2) development of programming in a new geographic area where none exists;

3) development of new programming that has the opportunity to make a significant impact on the lives of disabled Veterans and disabled members of the Armed Forces.

REGIONAL COMPETITIONS / CONFERENCE

Grant funds were also used to support regional competitions and a national conference on adaptive sports hosted by the United States Association of Blind Athletes. Competitions help identify Veteran athletes capable of excelling in a particular sport for coaching and mentoring. The national adaptive sports conference, held Sept. 15-18, 2014, in Colorado Springs, CO, provided adaptive sports professionals from across the country with educational opportunities and experience developing several Paralympic sports for visually impaired Veterans including judo, rowing, biathlon and more.

Figure 2: Grant Subaward by Funding Area

Funding Area	Total Dollars
Community, Regional, and National Partnerships	\$2,227,183.65
Sport Development	\$2,349,875.91
Valor Games Series	\$772,671.37
Program Development	\$116,196.43
Regional Competitions / Conference	\$319,182.35
TOTAL SUBAWARDS	\$5,785,109.71

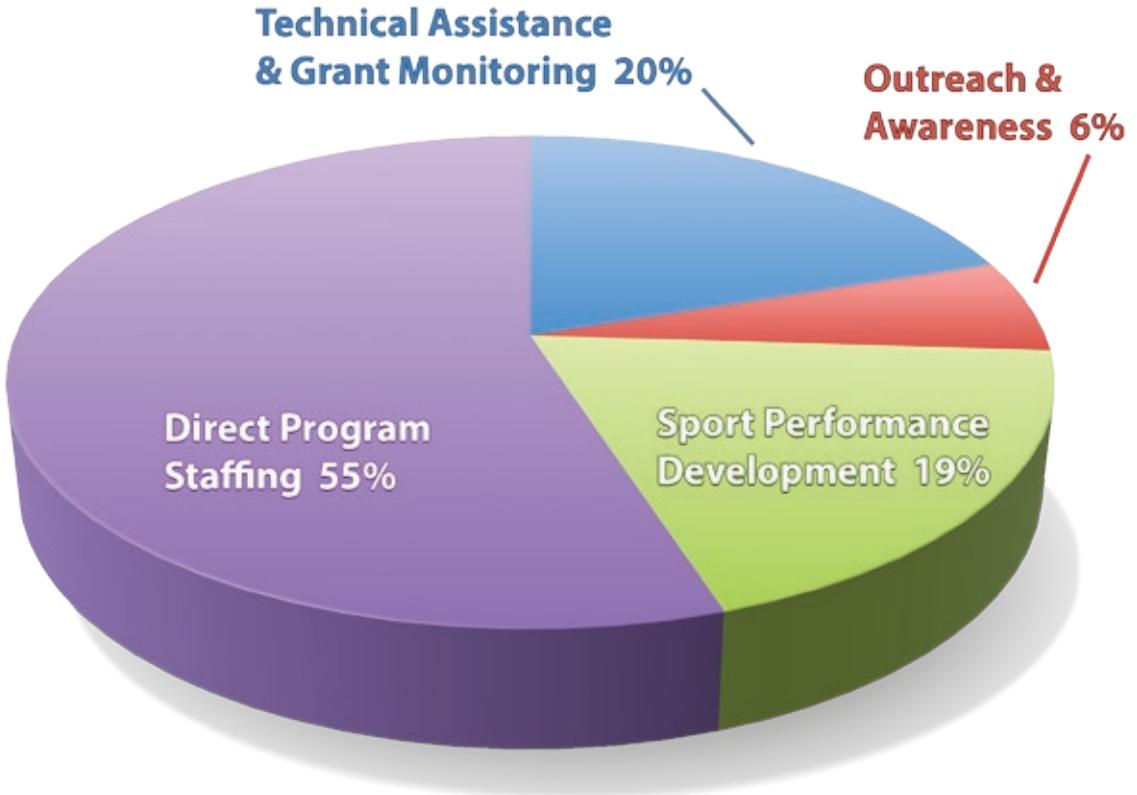
PARALYMPIC GRANT PROGRAM

1.3 USOC Paralympic Programs

The USOC Paralympic programs funding was divided into four distinct areas: (1) Technical Assistance and Grant Monitoring, (2) Outreach and Awareness, (3) Sport Performance Development, and (4) Direct Program Staffing (see *Figure 3*).

Figure 3: Total Funding by USOC Program Area

PROGRAM AREA	TOTAL DOLLARS
Technical Assistance & Grant Monitoring	\$238,215
Outreach and Awareness	\$73,317
Sport Performance Development	\$227,865
Direct Program Staffing	\$659,270
TOTAL USOC PROGRAMS	\$1,198,668





Grant funded activities provided a variety of sport opportunities for disabled Veterans, ranging from instructional camps and clinics to competitive events. The following table identifies the type of activities for each quarter during the fiscal year. Note: the number of Veterans participating in activities includes individuals attending multiple events, for a total of 7,900 sport opportunities. To calculate the number of unique Veterans participating in these opportunities for the reporting period, we removed duplicate Veteran name / zip codes to obtain a unique Veteran count of 4,415.

Figure 4: Veteran Participation by Quarter

ACTIVITY TYPE	Q1 & Q2	Q3	Q4
Practice/Training	1,410	2,017	2,371
Camps	55	48	94
Clinic	92	547	627
Competitions	183	208	218
TOTALS	1,740	2,850	3,310



USOC Sport Activities

Veterans may participate in multiple sport activities at the local, regional, national, and international levels. These sports include:

- | | | |
|-----------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| Air Pistol | Track and Field | Racquetball |
| Goalball | Biathlon | Wheelchair/Quad Rugby |
| Snowboarding | Nordic/Cross Country | Cycling/Handcycling |
| Air Rifle | Skiing Transitions | Rowing |
| Golf | Boccia | Wheelchair Racing |
| Surfing | Paddle Boarding | Equestrian |
| Alpine Skiing | Volleyball | Running |
| Hiking | Camping | Wheelchair Softball |
| Swimming | Paratriathlon | Fishing |
| Aquatics | Water Skiing | SCUBA |
| Ice/Sled Hockey | Canoing/Va'a | Wheelchair Soccer |
| Table Tennis | Powerlifting | Fencing |
| Archery | Weightlifting | Sailing |
| Judo | Climbing | Wheelchair Tennis |
| Tennis | Power Soccer | Fitness |
| Basketball | Wheelchair Basketball | Shooting |
| Kayaking | Curling | |

1.4 GRANT OVERSIGHT

VA and the U.S. Paralympics have continued to perform grant monitoring and oversight responsibilities in accordance with the July 2012 General Accounting Office report (GAO-12-703) "Veterans Paralympic Program - Improved Reporting Needed to Ensure Grant Accountability."

During the reporting period, the U.S. Paralympics established guidelines for grant oversight and monitoring activities that included site visits, desk audits and/or financial reviews of subgrant recipients. U.S. Paralympics also established risk assessment indicators to track subgrant progress toward achieving deliverables, including timely and accurate reporting, solid communication and solid results. The risk assessment indicators resulted in U.S. Paralympics performing financial and program desk reviews of 10 subgrant recipients.

As previously indicated in this report, this marked the final year of the U.S. Paralympics Integrated Adaptive Sport Program and necessitated internal controls for grant close out and record retention. For subgrant recipients, the close out process included completion of all deliverables, finalization of all obligations, and accounting for all grant funds. To coordinate this process, the U.S. Paralympics developed a detailed expenditure tracking tool for sub-recipient programs. This tool enabled accurate tracking of grant deliverables and spend plans to ensure full accounting and closeout of grant funds. All records associated with the U.S. Paralympics and subgrant awards are to be retained for a minimum of three years.

In addition to the USOC oversight activities, VA grant management specialists conducted visits to the USOC offices in Colorado Springs, CO, to review record keeping and participate in grant monitoring reviews. These included reviewing subgrantee compliance with deliverables, budget, level of participation and other performance measures. VA grant management specialists also reviewed USOC quarterly reports and provided ongoing feedback regarding deliverables.



PARALYMPIC MONTHLY ASSISTANCE ALLOWANCE PROGRAM



2.1 Allowance Overview

The program provides a monthly assistance allowance to disabled Veterans training in their respective sports as authorized by the *Veterans' Benefits Improvement Act of 2008* and defined in 38 CFR Part 76. Through the program, VA and USOC support disabled Veteran athletes who are in a full-time, coached program. During this reporting period, USOC and National Governing Bodies (NGB) in Paralympic sports further developed Paralympic allowance standards, created new partnerships and programs to expand opportunities for Veterans, and increased the number of Veterans on the emerging and

national teams. In addition, VA and USOC established programs to help disabled military athletes transition to the allowance and enable opportunities to participate in new Paralympic sports. The current IPC certified Paralympic sports are shown in Appendix C.

Throughout the reporting year, VA awarded \$1,167,820.21 in allowance payments to 163 disabled Veterans competing across 23 different Paralympic sports.

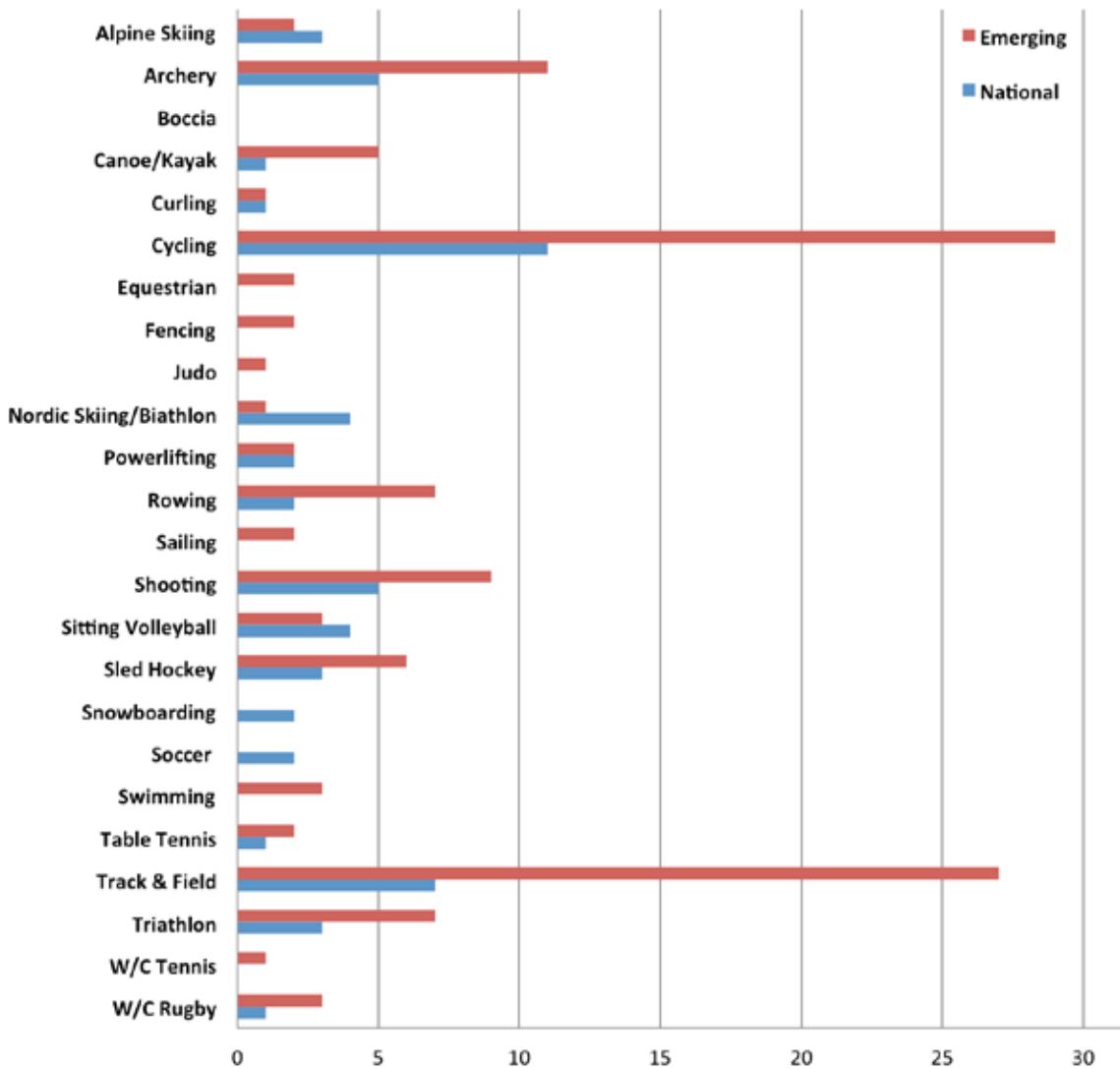
In addition, VA coordinated with numerous government offices, Olympic Committees, Paralympic Committees, and other adaptive sport entities to establish partnerships for enabling the monthly



assistance allowance in United States Commonwealths and Territories. These activities were subsequently incorporated

into the allowance program through Public Law 113-59, the *VA Expiring Authorities Extension Act of 2013*.

Figure 5: Total Number of National Team and Emerging Athletes by Paralympic Sport



NATIONAL REHABILITATION SPECIAL EVENTS



3.1 Overview

VA's adaptive sport and recreation therapy programs can be traced to the rehabilitation of war injured Veterans following World War II. In 1981, which the United Nations proclaimed as the International Year of Disabled Persons, VA hosted the first **National Veterans Wheelchair Games** to provide a competitive outlet for Veterans who use wheelchairs for sports and now has grown to be the largest annual rehabilitation and wheelchair sports competition in the world. In 1985, VA hosted the first **National Veterans Golden Age Games** to improve the health and wellness of Veterans age 55 and older. In 1987, VA launched the **National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic** to teach adaptive winter sports to Veterans receiving care at VA medical facilities. In 1989, VA held its first **National Veterans Creative Arts Competition and Festival** as a showcase for the healing power of art, music, drama and dance. The competition attracts thousands of Veterans from VA facilities nationwide with the top medal winners being invited to showcase their work at the annual

Festival. In 2008, VA piloted the **National Veterans Summer Sports Clinic** to introduce recently-injured Veterans to adaptive sports as part of their rehabilitation. That same year, an adaptive golfing program developed at the Iowa City VA Medical Center - the **National Veterans TEE Tournament** - became one of VA's National rehabilitation special events.

These programs provide a patient-centered approach to rehabilitation and community reintegration, and encourages Veterans to redefine their capabilities, establish rehabilitative goals, and re-discover their potential in a therapeutic environment. Through these annual events, Veterans find increased confidence, self-esteem, independence and a higher quality of life.

Each event is made possible through the collaborative efforts of VA medical facilities, National sponsors, and community partner organizations. During the reporting period, the Office hosted the following National events and provided rehabilitative sport and creative arts therapy opportunities to 4,993 Veterans:

NATIONAL EVENTS

Event	Date (2014)	Location	Veterans
National Disabled Veterans Winter Sports Clinic	3/29 - 4/4	Snowmass, CO	290
National Veterans Golden Age Games	6/28 - 7/2	Fayetteville, AR	635
National Veterans Wheelchair Games	8/12 - 8/17	Philadelphia, PA	550
National Veterans TEE Tournament	9/8 - 9/12	Iowa City, IA	185
National Veterans Summer Sports Clinic	9/7 - 9/12	San Diego, CA	125
National Veterans Creative Arts Festival	10/27 - 11/2	Milwaukee, WI	3,208 - Competition 147 - Festival



During this period, VA and USOC identified multiple opportunities for collaboration and program development. These efforts led to enhancements in both the Paralympic Grant and Monthly Assistance Allowance Programs.

4.1 Enhancing VA and Community Partnerships

The USOC coordinated with 15 VA Medical Centers and subgrant recipients to develop joint, ongoing programming for disabled Veterans and disabled members of the Armed Forces in their communities. A total of 460 disabled Veterans benefited from these collaboration programs. Through these efforts, Veterans are able to integrate into their communities for adaptive sport services. Additionally, NVSP&SE took steps to conduct outreach to veterans' organizations, universities, non-profit groups and other adaptive sport providers to enhance awareness of adaptive sport programming for disabled Veterans and disabled members of the Armed Forces.

4.2 Support for Camps and Competitions

Under the FY2013 grant, the USOC provided support to 13 camps and competitions serving 343 disabled Veterans and injured service members. These include:

- ▶ Empire State Games, Feb. 6-19
- ▶ Elite Throws Camp, April 7-13
- ▶ Texas Regional Games, April 11-13
- ▶ Great Lakes Adaptive Sports Association Gateway to Gold, April 27

- ▶ Desert Challenge Camp, May 5-11
- ▶ Gateway Games, May 16-18
- ▶ Bend Camp, May 23-26
- ▶ Endeavor Tri Camp, June 3-9
- ▶ Great Lakes Adaptive Sports Association Games, June 13-14
- ▶ Bay Area Gateway to Gold, July 3
- ▶ Development Archery Camp, July 21-25
- ▶ Southern California Gateway to Gold, July 31
- ▶ Warrior Games, Sept. 26-Oct. 4

4.3 Outreach

The Paralympic Winter Games were held in Sochi March 7 – 16, 2014, during the grant-funded period. The USOC and VA worked collaboratively to promote the Games, with much emphasis on the Veteran athletes competing in the Games. These efforts resulted in numerous media placements including *The New York Times*, *Men's Health*, *Field and Stream*, and *Sports Illustrated Kids* among others. Momentum from the Sochi Winter Games led to multiple speaking engagements, mentor visits and media opportunities including the PBS *Ice Warriors* documentary on sled hockey and the NBC broadcast of the Sochi gold medal sled hockey game reaching millions of viewers. VA and USOC also worked collaboratively to promote grant-funded events on social media sites such as Facebook and Twitter and highlight these events on the USOC Sport Club Finder website.

The USOC developed new marketing materials for the Gateway to Gold program, which is a talent identification program to introduce athletes to the pipeline for the U.S. Paralympic Team. These marketing materials included images of Veteran athletes and text indicating that the program is open to Veterans and service members with physical disabilities.

Another component of outreach included development and training for grant sub-recipients. The USOC implemented a number of steps to ensure sub-recipients understood and complied with federal grant reporting policies. These included hosting several webinars on best practices and other relevant topics, issuing a monthly grant newsletter and releasing “hot item” e-mails to address timely reporting and deliverable requirements.





VA Adaptive Sports Program Web site

The Web site, <http://www.va.gov/adaptivesports/>, provides users with engaging (both visual and informational), dynamic content about Paralympic and adaptive sports. The Web site includes features such as a comprehensive overview of the benefits of adaptive sports, sports by disability, information about the grant program and training allowances, success stories, and an Adaptive Sports Club Finder. The capabilities have been expanded, including more details on selected new Paralympic grant-related programs like the Valor Games and other Paralympic and adaptive sport publications.

SOCIAL MEDIA



TWITTER:

www.twitter.com/VAAadaptiveSport



FLICKR:

www.flickr.com/photos/VeteransAffairs



FACEBOOK:

www.facebook.com/VAAadaptiveSports



YOUTUBE:

www.youtube.com/DeptVetAffairs

Promotional Videos

NVSP&SE is developing promotional videos that highlight our national events. These inspirational and informational messages are part of our ongoing mission to promote participation and awareness of the numerous opportunities available to disabled Veterans and disabled Servicemembers.

Social Media

NVSP&SE has expanded our social media capabilities, utilizing various outlets such as Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, and more to maintain an ongoing source of current information on Paralympic and adaptive sports for disabled Veterans.

During this period, the passage of Public Law 113-59 in December 2013 changed the functional relationships and operational environment related to VA, the USOC, and other adaptive sport entities in the United States. These changes impacted the full spectrum of VA interaction with the adaptive sports communities.

5.1 VA Program Management Infrastructure Development

P.L. 113-59 required immediate VA assumption for management of the new grants for adaptive sports programs for disabled Veterans and disabled members of the armed forces. Because VA requires regulations for all grant programs, a formal regulation was required to be approved by VA and the Office of Management and Budget prior to publication in the Federal Register before any FY2014 Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) could be released. Through cooperative efforts VA completed and published 38 CFR Part 77, Adaptive Sports Programs for Disabled Veterans and Disabled Members of the Armed Forces, in the Federal Register on July 1, 2014. The following week, VA published the FY2014 Adaptive Sports Grant NOFA, received 161 Adaptive Sports Grant (ASG) applications, established all tools and processes to evaluate these applications, and awarded 69 grants worth \$8 million to 65 adaptive sport entities by the end of September 2014.

5.2 Resource Allocation

To manage the FY2014 ASG program, the VA created diverse tools and processes for all new duties and responsibilities associated with the program. Due to the immediate transition during the fiscal year, VA implemented the ASG program with existing manpower, budget, and other resources. This implementation method enabled the full \$8 million authorized to be allocated for adaptive sports grants.

5.3 Paralympic Sport Development

During the reporting period, VA increased outreach to National Governing Bodies in adaptive sports under consideration for International Paralympic Committee (IPC) certification as Paralympic sports. For example, VA worked with USA Badminton, USA Bobsled/Skeleton and USA Taekwondo to develop the infrastructure for their sports with involvement of disabled Veterans as core to these initiatives. In addition, VA worked with US Soccer and BlazeSports America in an initiative to develop pipelines in 7-a-Side Soccer for disabled Veterans with TBI and to create the infrastructure to develop a national 5-a-Side Soccer for blind and visually impaired athletes with the focus on disabled Veterans. The IPC has certified 7-a-Side Soccer as a Paralympic sport.

5.4 United States Commonwealth and Territories

Passage of P.L. 113-59, gave VA authority to engage Paralympic and adaptive sport entities in American Samoa, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands to enable equal involvement in VA's Adaptive Sports Grant and Paralympic allowance programs. During FY2014, VA developed partnerships to enable full implementation with the American Samoa National Olympic Committee (ASNOC); the Puerto Rico Paralympic Committee; the Northern Mariana Amateur Sports Association; and the National Paralympic Committee, U.S. Virgin Islands, each of which are the Paralympic sport authorities in their respective jurisdictions. The results included establishing the basis for activating Paralympic allowance programs in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands and for ASNOC applying for and being awarded an FY2014 Adaptive Sports Grant to establish the first-ever adaptive sports programs for disabled Veterans in American Samoa. VA also interacted with both governmental and private entities both in Guam or with chapters in Guam to develop adaptive sport initiatives; these entities include the Guam National Olympic Committee. However, these initiatives did not achieve the same levels of success as elsewhere.

5.5 Professional Therapeutic Sport Communities

Although some partnerships existed, VA expanded its direct coordination with the professional therapeutic adaptive sport communities in the United States to enhance the adaptive sports grant, Paralympic allowance, and other VA programs. For example, VA worked with the America Therapeutic Recreation Association to disseminate information on the new Adaptive Sports Grant program throughout the national recreation therapy community. VA met with the Amputee Coalition of America and developed plans and initiatives to cooperate through the full spectrum of adaptive sports activities for Veterans with amputations or facing amputations. In some areas, VA began a more comprehensive approach, such as establishing partnership links involving the Blinded Veterans of America, U.S. Association of Blind Athletes, VisionQuest Alliance, Association for Education & Rehabilitation of the Blind and Visually Impaired, the VA Blind Rehabilitation Services, and other adaptive sport entities for enhancing adaptive sports opportunities for blind and visually-impaired Veterans. VA also reinvigorated established partnerships such as with the National Consortium for Physical Education for Individuals with Disabilities in training and technical assistance initiatives in adaptive sports for disabled Veterans.

5.6 More Comprehensive Adaptive Sports for Disabled Veterans

With P.L. 113-59 implementation, VA launched new initiatives in adaptive sports that are not in the realm of Paralympic sports and better consider the needs of disabled Veterans with disabilities not classified under the IPC system, such as PTSD. For example, VA enacted new partnership activities with PATH [Professional Association of Therapeutic Horsemanship] International, the lead national organization in therapeutic riding and equine-assisted therapy. In another initiative, VA partnered with the National Senior Games Association and NSGA is currently implementing adaptive sports into the national Senior Games program.





APPENDIX A - FY2013 PARALYMPIC GRANT RECIPIENTS

ORGANIZATION NAME / LOCATION	GRANT AMOUNT	PARALYMPIC & ADAPTIVE SPORT
COMMUNITY, REGIONAL AND NATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS – \$2,227,183.65		
Adaptive Action Sports Lummi Island, WA	\$25,000	Para snowboard
Adaptive Adventures Lakewood, CO	\$45,000	Cycling, Skiing
Adaptive Sports New England Lincoln, NH	\$50,000	Fitness, Sailing, Kayaking, Softball, Golf
Bay Area Outreach & Recreation Program Berkeley, CA	\$25,000	Cycling, Goalball, Basketball, Kayaking
Buffalo Sabres Foundation Buffalo, NY	\$14,750	Sled hockey
Casper Mountain Biathlon Club Casper, WY	\$25,000	Biathlon
Central Cross Country Ski Association Verona, WI	\$50,000	Cross county skiing
Challenged Athletes Foundation San Diego, CA	\$45,000	Multi-sport
Champions Made From Adversity Augusta, GA	\$24,972	Cycling, Archery
City of Boulder Boulder, CO	\$15,000	Track and field, Cycling
City of Bryant Bryant, AR	\$19,251.69	Archery, Wheelchair basketball
Community Rowing Brighton, MA	\$25,000	Rowing

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT WWW.VA.GOV/ADAPTIVESPORTS

**ORGANIZATION
NAME / LOCATION**

**GRANT
AMOUNT**

PARALYMPIC & ADAPTIVE SPORT

COMMUNITY, REGIONAL AND NATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS – \$2,227,183.65



**Disabled Athlete Sports Association
St. Peters, MO**

\$17,000

Multi-sport

**Disabled Sports USA
Rockville, MD**

\$500,000

Multi-sport

**Florida Gulf Coast PVA
Tampa, FL**

\$15,000

Archery

**Great Lakes Adaptive Sports
Association Lake Forest, IL**

\$50,000

Track and field, Paratriathlon

**Greater Metro Parks Tacoma
Tacoma, WA**

\$20,000

Archery

**Injured Marine Semper Fi Fund
Oceanside, CA**

\$35,000

Multi-sport

**Loma Linda University Health
PossAbilities
Loma Linda, CA**

\$25,000

Para-canoe, Cycling

**Lone Star Paralysis Foundation
Austin, TX**

\$125,000

Multi-sport

**Medstar National
Rehabilitation Network
Washington, DC**

\$100,000

**Archery, Rowing, Wheelchair rugby,
Wheelchair basketball, Sailing, Kayaking**

**Mesa Association of Sports
for the Disabled
Mesa, AZ**

\$40,630

Cycling, Kayaking, Track, Field, Archery

APPENDIX A - FY2013 PARALYMPIC GRANT RECIPIENTS

ORGANIZATION NAME / LOCATION	GRANT AMOUNT	PARALYMPIC & ADAPTIVE SPORT
COMMUNITY, REGIONAL AND NATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS – \$2,227,183.65		
National Ability Center Park City, UT	\$70,000	Alpine skiing, Snowboarding, Archery, Cycling
National Sports Center for the Disabled Denver, CO	\$75,000	Alpine and Nordic skiing, Snowboarding, Para-canoe
New England Nordic Ski Association New Gloucester, ME	\$44,604.96	Nordic skiing
Operation Comfort San Antonio, TX	\$17,500	Cycling
Paralyzed Veterans of America Washington, DC	\$400,000	Cycling, Trapshooting, Bowling
Riekes Center for Human Enhancement Menlo Park, CA	\$25,000	Archery, Track and field, Wheelchair rugby
Sanford Medical Center Grand Forks, MN	\$14,975	Skiing, Cycling, Archery, Kayaking
SPIRE Institute EVSR Program Geneva, OH	\$15,000	Swimming, Running, Handcycling, Wheelchair basketball
Sportable Richmond Adaptive Sports and Recreation Inc. Richmond, VA	\$18,500	Rowing, Air rifles, Archery, Tennis
Team River Runner Rockville, MD	\$30,000	Paddling, Kayaking
University of New Hampshire Northeast Passage Durham, NH	\$125,000	Multi-sport
World Sport Chicago Development Program Chicago, IL	\$100,000	Multi-sport

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ORGANIZATION NAME / LOCATION	GRANT AMOUNT	PARALYMPIC & ADAPTIVE SPORT
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COMPETITIONS AND CONFERENCES - \$319,182.35

BlazeSports America Atlanta, GA	\$45,865.32	Dixie Games
Great Lakes Adaptive Sports Association Deerfield, IL	\$20,000	Great Lakes Games
Lone Star Paralysis Foundation San Antonio, TX	\$18,317.03	Texas Regional Games
Michigan Sports Unlimited Morley, MI	\$37,500	Thunder in the Valley
United States Association of Blind Athletes Colorado Springs, CO	\$175,000	Conference
University of Central Oklahoma Edmond, OK	\$22,500	Endeavor Games



APPENDIX A - FY2013 PARALYMPIC GRANT RECIPIENTS

ORGANIZATION NAME / LOCATION	GRANT AMOUNT
SPORT DEVELOPMENT GRANT: \$2,349,875.91	
American Service Member Amateur Sports Boulder, CO	\$15,000
Aspen Valley Ski & Snowboard Club Aspen, CO	\$500,000
BlazeSports America Decatur, GA	\$145,000
Lakeshore Foundation Birmingham, AL	\$33,825
National Archery Association of the United States Colorado Springs, CO	\$90,000
National Paddling Committee dba USA Canoe Kayak Oklahoma City, OK	\$100,000
National Wheelchair Basketball Association Colorado Springs, CO	\$120,000
United States Association of Blind Athletes Colorado Springs, CO	\$150,000
United States Biathlon Association New Gloucester, ME	\$200,000
United States Curling Association Stevens Point, WI	\$48,100.66
United States Equestrian Federation Inc. Lexington, KY	\$65,409.86
United States Judo Inc. Colorado Springs, CO	\$100,000



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ORGANIZATION NAME / LOCATION	GRANT AMOUNT
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**SPORT DEVELOPMENT GRANT:
\$2,349,875.91**

United States Sailing Association Portsmouth, RI	\$80,000
University of Central Oklahoma Edmond, OK	\$248,750.72
USA Shooting Colorado Springs, CO	\$100,000
USA Table Tennis Colorado Springs, CO	\$100,000
USA Triathlon Colorado Springs, CO	\$40,143.45
USA Volleyball Colorado Springs, CO	\$100,000
USTA Serves White Plains, NY	\$113,646.22

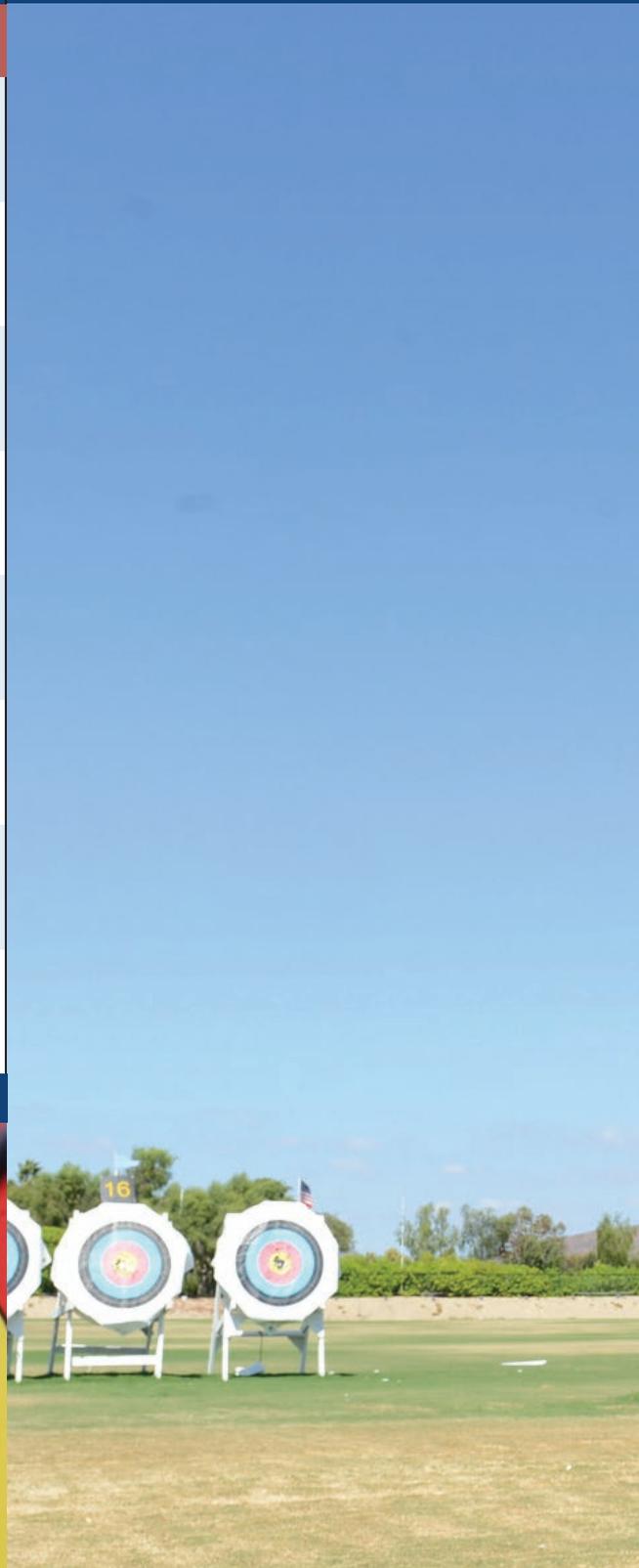


VALOR GAMES: \$772,671.37

Bridge II Sports Raleigh, NC	\$150,000	Valor Games Southeast
Far West Wheelchair Athletic Association Alameda, CA	\$150,000	Valor Games Farwest
San Antonio Sports San Antonio, TX	\$147,677.60	Valor Games Southwest
World Sport Chicago Chicago, IL	\$175,000	Valor Games Midwest
SPIRE Institute Geneva, OH	\$149,993.77	Gold Medal Camp

APPENDIX A - FY2013 PARALYMPIC GRANT RECIPIENTS

ORGANIZATION NAME / LOCATION	GRANT AMOUNT
PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT: \$116,196.43	
All Out Adventures Northampton, MA	\$14,999
The Center for Individuals with Physical Challenges Tulsa, OK	\$15,000
City of Reno Reno, NV	\$15,000
Fencers Club New York, NY	\$15,000
City of Fort Collins Fort Collins, CO	\$15,000
Tennessee Association of Blind Athletes Nashville, TN	\$13,000.15
University of Southern Mississippi Hattiesburg, MS	\$13,334
Wheelchair Sports Incorporated Wichita, KS	\$14,863.28



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APPENDIX B - PARTNERSHIPS WITH NATIONAL GOVERNING BODIES

PARALYMPIC SPORT	ORGANIZATION	COMMUNITY
Alpine Skiing	United States Paralympics	Colorado Springs, CO
Archery	USA Archery	Colorado Springs, CO
Badminton	USA Badminton	Colorado Springs, CO
Basketball	National Wheelchair Basketball Association	Colorado Springs, CO
Biathlon	United States Biathlon Association	New Gloucester, ME
Boccia	BlazeSports America, Inc.	Atlanta, GA
Canoe (Va'a) / Kayak	United States Canoe / Kayak	Oklahoma City, OK
Curling	United States Curling Association	Stevens Point, WI
Cycling	United States Paralympics	Colorado Springs, CO
Equestrian	United States Equestrian Federation	Gladstone, NJ
Goalball	United States Association of Blind Athletes	Colorado Springs, CO
Judo	USA Judo	Colorado Springs, CO
Nordic Skiing	United States Paralympics	Colorado Springs, CO
Para-Snowboard	United States Paralympics	Colorado Springs, CO
Paratriathlon	USA Triathlon	Colorado Springs, CO
Powerlifting	United States Paralympic Powerlifting	Edmond, OK
Rowing	United States Rowing	Princeton, NJ
Rugby	Lakeshore Foundation	Birmingham, AL
Sailing	United States Sailing	Portsmouth, RI
Shooting	USA Shooting	Colorado Springs, CO
Sled Hockey	USA Hockey	Colorado Springs, CO

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PARALYMPIC SPORT	ORGANIZATION	COMMUNITY
Soccer	United States Soccer Federation	Chicago, IL
Swimming	United States Paralympics	Colorado Springs, CO
Table Tennis	USA Table Tennis	Colorado Springs, CO
Taekwondo	USA Taekwondo	Colorado Springs, CO
Tennis	United States Tennis Association	White Plains, NY
Track and Field	United States Paralympics	Colorado Springs, CO
Volleyball	USA Volleyball	Colorado Springs, CO



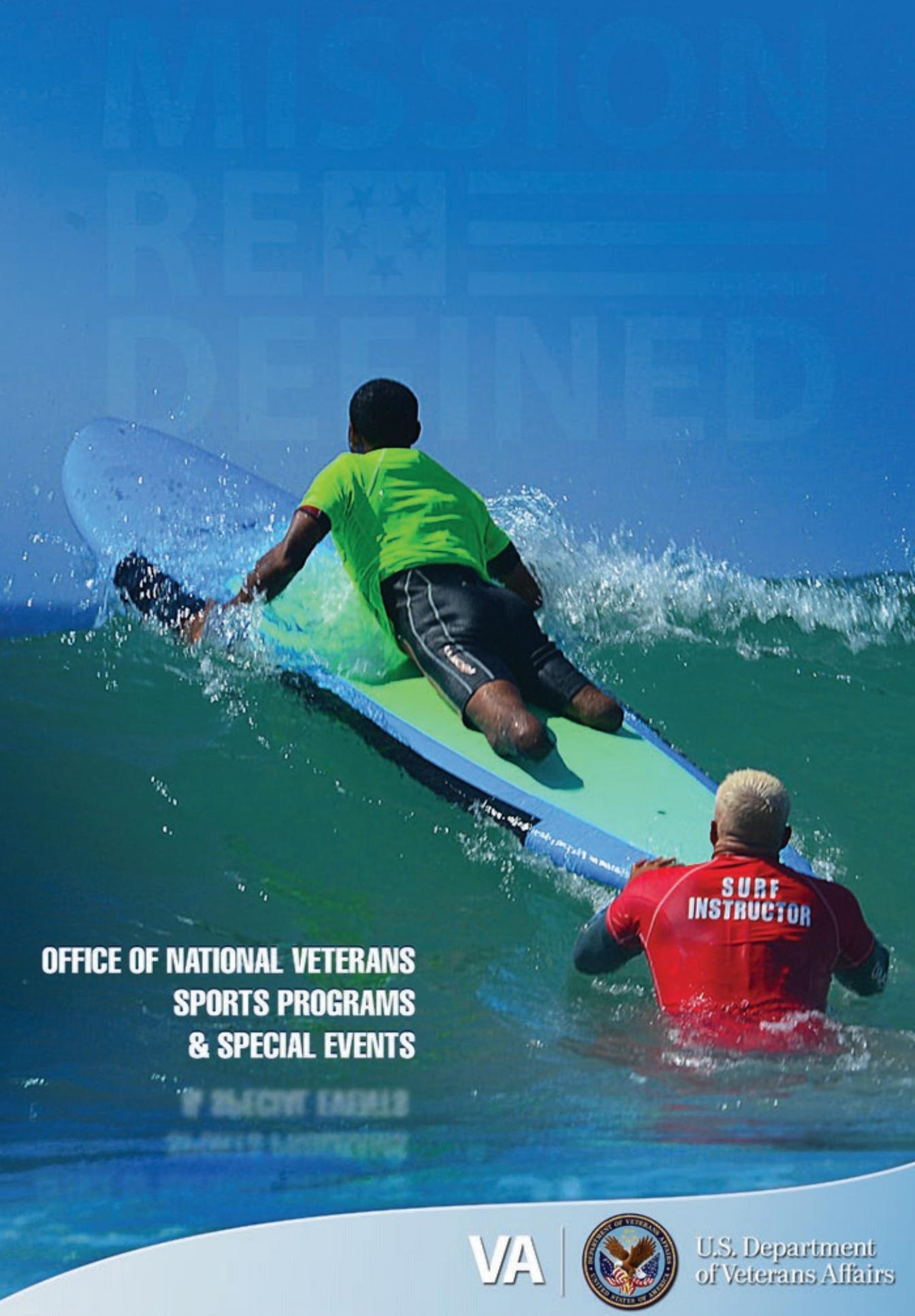
APPENDIX C - PARALYMPIC SPORTS BY DISABILITY GROUP

PARALYMPIC SPORT	AMPUTEE / DWARFISM / OTHER	BLIND / VISUALLY IMPAIRED	SPINAL CORD INJURY / PARALYZED / WHEELCHAIR USER	TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY / CP / STROKE	INTELLECTUAL IMPAIRMENT
Archery	X		X	X	
Badminton			X		
Basketball	X		X		
Boccia				X	
Canoe/Kayak	X		X	X	
Cycling	X	X	X	X	
Equestrian	X	X	X	X	
Fencing	X		X	X	
Goalball		X			
Judo		X			
Paratriathlon	X	X	X	X	
Powerlifting	X		X	X	
Rowing	X	X	X	X	
Rugby			X		
Sailing	X	X	X	X	
Shooting	X		X	X	
Soccer*				X	
Swimming	X	X	X	X	X
Table Tennis	X		X	X	X
Taekwondo	X				
Tennis	X		X		
Track & Field	X	X	X	X	X
Volleyball	X				
Alpine Skiing	X	X	X	X	
Biathlon	X	X	X	X	
Cross Country Skiing	X	X	X	X	
Curling	X		X	X	
Sled Hockey	X		X	X	
Snowboard	X				

*Soccer exists for Blind/Visually Impaired athletes in international competition, but there is no active U.S. program.



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